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Environment Department Requests Additional Intel Emissions Information

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today formally requested additional emissions information from Intel's Rio Rancho facility. This information concerns Intel's quarterly testing program of Volatile Organic Chemical (VOC) emissions from its Recuperative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO) stacks, the frequency and nature of excess emission reports at this facility, and the adequacy of information supporting those reports. This information has been requested to verify that Intel is abiding by its air quality permit.

"In order to ensure permit compliance and to do our job of protecting air quality in and around Rio Rancho, NMED needs this information," said Jim Norton, Director of NMED's Environmental Protection Division. "Furthermore, during our ongoing, comprehensive study of air quality in the Corrales community, we need to have all the data we can to address citizens' concerns. This information we are requesting could be another important piece in the puzzle we are assembling."

During routine maintenance procedures, Intel's emissions controls are taken off-line and its RTO stacks emit uncontrolled VOCs. The information NMED is requesting will reveal what substances in what concentrations are emitted during these downtimes.

NMED is also requesting more information concerning the frequency, nature and adequacy of excess emission reports (EERs) submitted to the Air Quality Bureau (AQB) by Intel. Excess emissions can only be excused if Intel proves, to the AQB's satisfaction, that the excess emission resulted from startup, shutdown, scheduled maintenance, or malfunction of the unit and they satisfy the regulatory criteria. A number of Intel's recent EERs lack sufficient information for the AQB to evaluate whether the excess emissions can be excused. These EERs concern both RTO and Acid Gas Scrubber stacks.

In addition to requesting the information, NMED has outlined procedures for Intel to provide these emissions reports in the future. Intel has been given until June 30th to submit the requested information.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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